sic and phosphatic fertilizers (P&K) to Himachal Pradesh on the lines of Jammu & Kashmir and North-Eastern States with effect from Rabi 1998-99.

Exemption from price control on Doxycycline

*143. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doxycycline was exempted from price control on the ground of R and D; if so, when;

(b) when the exemption was withdrawn and why; whether the concerned Joint Secretary of the Ministry had recorded that the concerned company had implemented formulation prices;

(c) what action has been taken against him for distorting facts; and

(d) how fabulous prices for leading brands Doxy-I, Vibaine DT, Tetradox, are being charged with the connivance of bureaucrats of his Ministry and why the companies have not been booked under essential Commodities Act, 1955?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (c) On the recommendation of the "Expert Group on Technology Issues", M/s Ranbaxy Labs Limited alone were granted exemption from price control on Grounds of R&D done by done them for the bulk drug Doxycycline Hydrochloride and its formulations vide S.O. No 782 (E) dated 29.8.1995, for a period of 3 years. M/s Ranbaxy Labs Limited, were complying with bulk drug price during price control and had informed that the Company was not manufacturing formulations based on the bulk drug. Subsequently, on 2.5.1996 the same "Expert Group on Technology Issues" was asked to re-examine their earlier recommendations for exemption for the bulk drug made by the Company. In the light of this re-examination by the Group, the Government vide S.O. No. 616(E) dated 3.9.1996 withdrew the exemption as provided under para 2 of the Guideline No. 1/1995 issued under DPCO, 1995.

(d) Ceiling prices of formulation packs based on Doxycycline were notified from time to time under DPCO, 1987 and DPCO, 1995. Inclusion of the bulk drug and its for mulations for control under DPCOs was challenged by M/s U.S. Vitamins in a case, filed in Mumbai High Court. Implementation of the Notified prices of the bulk drug and formulations was stayed by the High Court in the interim order dated 10.12.1996. The case is *sub-judice*.

Rail line from Sultanganj to Deoghar

*144. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for the construction of railway line from Sultanganj to Deoghar *via.* Banka in Bihar is being made persistently by the Members of Parliament of South Bihar, in and outside Parliament; and

(b) whether this railways line links several districts of South Bihar with each other and it is also very important from the point of view of traffic?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Some demands have been received.

(b) A survey for the suggested line from Sultanganj to Deoghar *via* Banka has been taken up. The traffic potential will become clear once the survey report becomes available. The proposed line, if taken up, would link several districts of South Bihar with Sultanganj in Bhagalpur District.